

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 14 APR 54

SUBJECT Status of Science and Scientific Progress,
Capabilities and Potential

NO. OF PAGES 3 25X1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

DATE OF INFO

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

the following factors influence the status of science and scientific progress, scientific capabilities and potential: 25X1

(a) National policy toward science

25X1

When national policy in Hungary is publicized along these lines, a great deal of lip service is paid to science and scientific research, but that is just about as far as it goes. In Hungary there are no funds whatsoever available for pure research, and the only funds made available for applied research are allocated exclusively to situations where immediate results can be obtained to increase some type of production. Hungarian citizens are ever in the foreground in these projects where they can be observed by the populace, but they have no real authority, and the Soviets, who always remain in the background, are the real ones in charge and in complete control. 25X1

(b) Influence of political pressures on scientific research

25X1

Political pressures exist both in aim and toward personnel. These pressures are invariably channeled to immediate economic considerations, nothing long-range, and always in accordance with the Party line. However, political pressures do not always work out as planned. For example, Professor Z Komondy, an expert in gasoline and steam engines at the Technical Institute in Budapest, openly and publicly rebelled against

25X1

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION

SRD/SI X

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

political pressures, stating that the pressures applied were contrary to good research and free thinking. Despite this rebellion however, Professor Komondy still occupied his position at the Institute, to my knowledge, as late as 1951 and 1952, for the reason that he was too prominent a man for the Soviets to dismiss. The real point is that he was needed too badly and there was no one to replace him. It is interesting [] to note that the Soviets do not conduct brain-washings of people in Hungary like Professor Komondy because (a) he is too greatly needed [] and (b) because changing his mind through brain-washing in one respect would inevitably change it in all respects, and thereby destroy his usefulness.

25X1

25X1

(c) Atmosphere for scientific research, such as personal incentives, availability of facilities for research, etc []

25X1

3. In so far as true scientists are concerned, there is no need to create an atmosphere for scientific research and the use of incentives, because the personal incentive will always be present in the true scientist to continue his research, regardless of his environment. In fact, and although this may sound strange at first, adverse conditions and a hostile environment usually cause researchers to become more and more introverted, and these factors thereby tend to make the researchers better scientists because of this introversion and escape from surroundings. Despite all this though, certainly the research facilities are channeled along the lines [] mentioned above, that is, to immediate economic considerations and in accordance with the Party line.

25X1

(d) Standards of scientific education []

25X1

4. In Hungary, the standards of scientific education remained as high as ever before, until September or October 1948, when the standards of the educated changed. Note that [] "the standards of the educated" rather than "the standards of education." [] in September or October 1948 when the policy changed, all persons who were thereafter permitted to be educated or to enroll for education had to pass detailed political questionnaires in order to attend universities. However, even then, there is considerable discrimination against the middle classes, or the bourgeoisie if you will, in favor of the lowest classes - the people [] refer as "poor, feverish Communists." For example, the members of the middle classes - the classes which had heretofore furnished most of the scientists and researchers - who satisfactorily completed the political questionnaires in order to enroll in universities, frequently would be passed over because they were members of the middle class, and the poor, feverish, Communists would be enrolled in their stead. Thus, from the autumn of 1948, enrollments in Hungarian universities have been made on the basis of political considerations rather than on merit and ability.

25X1

25X1

25X1

(e) Quality and supply of scientific-technical manpower []

25X1

5. [] Inasmuch as the quality of students enrolled in the universities has suffered a sharp and continuous drop since the autumn of 1948, it is inevitable that the quality and supply of competent scientific and technical personnel have likewise declined.

25X1

25X1

[] foreign scientific literature collected and disseminated in Hungary []

25X1

25X1

[] The only restriction in Hungary on the free collection of, and individual subscription to, foreign scientific literature has been the availability

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

of funds, which have always had to be budgeted. In other words, funds are always limited and have to be carefully allocated, but that is the only restriction on the free collection of foreign scientific literature.

25X1
25X1

refer only to scientific publications. Many others, particularly those publications discussing political matters, have been prohibited. A typical example of the type of foreign literature which has been banned from Hungary is TIME magazine.

The following data on the Ministry of Higher Education is needed:

- (a) Methods of recruitment of science students for higher educational institutions; incentives offered; scholarships; subject fields given special emphasis.

25X1

7. Here again the methods of recruitment follow the lines already indicated. That is, recruitment is based primarily upon political considerations, with qualified and able students discriminated against if they are of the bourgeoisie, and favoritism is invariably shown the politically orthodox, poor, feverish, Communists, regardless of their abilities and aptitudes. Under this system, there is no reason to discuss incentives and scholarships

25X1

scientific education is channeled to immediate economic considerations, tied in with the aim of an immediate increase in production, and always in accordance with the Party line. Also in this connection, it should be observed that, in Hungary, except for religious groups, student dormitories were completely unknown and unheard of until 1948 or 1949. However, in whichever year it was, dormitories began to be built for the first time for the housing of university students. Theretofore, students had always lived at home, or in other private homes, or in boarding houses, but never in dormitories. This also ties in with the enrolling of the poor, feverish, Communists, as it is such as these who are immediately willing to live as students in university dormitories. A further reason, of course, for the erection of these dormitories is the fact that student aid is thereby made considerably easier and more economical. Furthermore, the dormitories offer an unsurpassed opportunity for continuous political indoctrination.

25X1
25X1

Criticism and self-criticism, both favorable and unfavorable, concerning standards of higher education; absenteeism; percentage of failures; measures taken to insure improvements; morale of professors and students

25X1
25X1

8. in the autumn of 1948, for the first time, study groups of from 15 to 20 students per group were organized in the universities under a Communist Party student leader for each group, as well as a Communist Party secretary, and a secret Communist agent whose identity is unknown but who reports on both the students of the group and the professors who teach the group. These study groups are required to do everything together - attend political demonstrations, rallies, even motion pictures, etc. These groups are purposely made numerically small for the sake of tighter control over the students, as otherwise there inevitably would be a great deal of absenteeism from such things as public demonstrations, political indoctrination lectures, etc. In other words, if a student body as a whole were required to attend a political demonstration, there could conceivably be considerable absenteeism. However, under the group system of from 15 to 20 persons per group, with a known informer of an unknown identity in each group, the opportunities for deviation are considerably lessened.

25X1

25X1